

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

July 19, 2005

The County of Los Angeles is one of the nation's geographically largest counties, encompassing 4,084 square miles, 88 cities, the desert, the mountains, the Pacific Coast and a multitude of communities and neighborhoods. While this geographic diversity gives the region uniqueness and vibrancy, it also tends to hamper citizen participation in County government. If citizens wish to testify before the Board of Supervisors, they must come to the Hall of Administration, which may be as much as a 1-2 hour drive and an even longer commute on public transit. While Board of Supervisors meetings are carried live on the internet and a telephone listening line, and are rebroadcast on television, members of the public must be present in order to testify and participate directly before their elected officials.

The City of Los Angeles recently voted to allow videoconferencing participation at City Council meetings from remote locations across the City. The first videoconferencing site will be available to the public at Van Nuys City Hall.

Having the ability to videoconference testimony from different locations throughout the County will give members of the public the opportunity to provide input on matters that affect them and their communities without the long drive downtown. By making our meetings more accessible, we will have the ability to take in a broader point

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KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

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of view from all corners of the County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board direct the Director of Internal Services, with the assistance of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Executive Officer, and other necessary departments, to prepare a plan for providing videoconferencing technology at one site in each Supervisorial District in order to permit members of the public to testify before the Board from remote locations; and to report to the Board within 60 days with a plan for implementation including costs, proposed remote videoconferencing sites, and necessary policies and procedures.

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